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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Not yet assigned  
Applicants: Francis BRIAND, et al.  
Examiner: Unknown  
Filed International: December 4, 2002  
US National: Herewith  
TC/A.U: Unknown  
Title: Method and installation for laser welding with a N<sub>2</sub>/He gas mixture, the N<sub>2</sub>/He content being controlled according to the laser power  
Docket No.: Serie 5879  
Customer No.: 000040582

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination of the merits of the above-identified U.S. patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115, please first amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 4 of this paper.

There are no **Amendments to the Drawings** in this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.